

United Nation's 'Defamation of Religions' would undermine freedoms worldwide

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Those who would be tempted to endorse the resolution ought to know that the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), an inter-governmental organization of 57 countries with majority or significant Muslim populations, has been the driving force behind it. And the OIC's goal is anything but peaceful.

In testimony before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission last Wednesday, **Leonard A. Leo, chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)**,

called the resolution an attempt to "create a global blasphemy law."

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Although proponents justify the "defamation of religion" concept as protecting religious practice and promoting tolerance, it really promotes intolerance and human rights violations of religious freedom and freedom of expression. These resolutions have empowered repressive governments and religious extremists to suppress and punish whatever they deem to be offensive or unacceptable speech about a particular favored religion or sect.

Open Doors USA, our organization that tracks the treatment of Christians around the world, has documented that many Christians living in Muslim-majority countries are already severely impacted by restrictive laws - especially those living under strict Sharia law.